TO: Principal Bell, Dr. Gober, Dr. Lewis

FROM: Mr. Clarkson

RE: Education Class

Since the time that a child can talk and communicate, people ask him or her, “what do you want to be when you grow up?”. At a young age, a lot children will pick the glamorous careers like astronaut, basketball player, or actress. As they grow up, their choices will probably change. One profession that does not get chosen as much as others is a teacher. Education is apart of every child, and they are affected by so many teachers in so many ways. Not enough of these students want to become future teachers. This proposal is for a education class to help students understand more behind their own education, what their teachers do to help them succeed, and to create interest in the education profession.

Most students can tell the difference between a good teacher and a bad teacher, but most do not understand why. This education class will go over the science behind teaching and learning. The class would dive into the basics of educational psychology. The students would learn about their cognitive development through Piaget’s theories. They would learn about how multitasking, for example being on their phone in class, takes away from their working memory and greatly affects their learning. They would learn about why students and teachers act the way they do in class through Pavlov’s dogs, and have a better understanding behind reinforcement and punishment. The students would see how all of these concepts behind the science of learning apply in their daily lives in school. They can use that knowledge to their own learning, their peers learning, and who knows, they may be able to teach a teacher about how students today learn best.

The class would also teach the students how they learn best. The teacher will go through multiple note taking strategies, different ways to study for classes and exams, and test taking strategies. All of these important skills are sometimes lost, and most teachers do not take or have the time to teach these vital concepts. The students will have the opportunity to really figure out what strategies work best for them, and how they as individuals can thrive in the classroom. This class will also go into proper professional communication, for example, how to send and reply to a professional email.

This class would fit very will into the education and training pathway in the high schools of Georgia. It can be taught by any teacher or academic coach that has a solid background in educational psychology. It would be a year long class in the traditional class period format, and a semester class in a school with block scheduling.

This class could start as soon as standards for the class are created, and teachers are prepared to instruct the class. A committee of teachers and administrators will review and agree on the standards and who should teach the class. If the class is well received by the students, teachers and school, then it can become a permanent elective for students to take. The students who take the class should be compared to their fellow classmates that did not take the class to see if their is any significant difference in academic growth. The main obstacle for making this class a reality is putting in the time to plan and schedule the class into the high school. As long as there are people within the school that are willing to help create the class, then there should be minimal cost to the school to put this class in their curriculum. This class has the opportunity to better prepare students for their education, and will hopefully lead some students into careers in education which the state of Georgia needs.